

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 064060
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SIG-03 HA-05 ACDA-12 IO-14
ARA-14 TRSE-00 /110 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:PHALL:ADR
APPROVED BY AF/P:RWHOLLIDAY
-----094374 140015Z /17

O 132232Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
XMT AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING MARCH 13, 1978

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON
BRIEFING, MARCH 13, 1978:

Q: TWO QUESTIONS HERE:

WHAT IS THE STATE OF INFORMATION THIS MORNING ABOUT THE

SITUATION IN THE HORN?

AND SECONDLY, I WOULD LIKE TO REASK THE QUESTION TO WHICH AN ANSWER WAS POSTED THIS MORNING BUT WHICH DOES NOT RESPOND -- AND THAT QUESTION WAS:

"DOES THE UNITED STATES ACCEPT THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE SO-CALLED "WESTERN SOMALIAN LIBERATION FORCE" AND THE REGULAR SOMALIAN ARMY?

A: AND THE POSTED ANSWER SAID? WHAT DOES IT SAY?

A: THE POSTED ANSWER WENT ON TO SAY: IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT SIAD HAS ORDERED THE REGULAR SOMALI NATIONAL ARMY TO WITHDRAW. HE HAS NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED CONTROL OVER THE WSLF, NOR IS HE LIKELY TO DO SO NOW. THE UNITED STATES HAS NEVER "RECOGNIZED" THE WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT AND CLEARLY SUCH AN ENTITY WOULD APPEAR TO EXIST AMONG SOME OF THE SOMALIS WHO LIVE IN ETHIOPIA.

A: I THINK THAT IS GOING TO BE THE STATE OF MY WISDOM
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ON THE SUBJECT AT THE MOMENT.

Q: THE QUESTION STILL RECURS -- DOES THE UNITED STATES ACCEPT THAT DISTINCTION?

A: I SAY THAT THAT FORMULATION, UNFORTUNATELY, IS THE BEST I AM GOING TO BE ABLE TO OFFER RIGHT NOW.

Q: O.K.

A: OUR INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF THE WITHDRAWAL IS, QUITE FRANKLY, VERY FRAGMENTARY. BUT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT WITHDRAWAL WAS WELL UNDER WAY, PRETTY GENERALLY AND I JUST SIMPLY CAN'T CONFIRM THAT IT HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

Q: WELL, AGAIN THAT QUESTION RECURS THERE THEN -- THE WITHDRAWAL OF WHAT, FROM WHERE?

A: SOMALI TROOPS FROM THE OGADEN.

Q: AND VOLUNTARILY OR BEING FORCED BACK?

Q: AND ON THE RUN.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS --

A: YES, I UNDERSTAND WELL, I AM REALLY NOT ABLE, UNFORTUNATELY -- EVEN IF I HAD THE INFORMATION.

BUT TO GIVE A FRONT-BY-FRONT REPORT, I BELIEVE THAT IT VARIES DEPENDING ON THE AREA OF THE OGADEN.

Q: BUT THERE IS SOME VOLITION ON SOMALI'S PART TO PULL OUT.

A: IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT WITHDRAWAL IS TAKING UNCLASSIFIED

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PLACE IN SEVERAL AREAS -- NOT ALL OF WHICH ARE IMMEDIATE COMBAT AREAS.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THE FLOW OF CUBANS INTO ETHIOPIA HAS STOPPED, OR KEEPS GOING ON?

A: I DON'T HAVE AN UPDATE ON THAT. THE LAST THAT

I SAW WAS THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT THERE WERE STILL SOME CUBANS COMING ALONG. BUT YOU KNOW, BY VARIOUS ROUTES. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING EITHER.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON WHERE WE STAND ON EFFORTS TO GET NEUTRAL OBSERVERS IN THERE, WHAT WE'RE DOING, WHO WE'RE TALKING TO, WHETHER ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED ON IT?

A: NO, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING MUCH BETTER THAN WHERE WE WERE. NO. I THINK THAT WE ARE SIMPLY CONSULTING A NUMBER OF PARTIES AND HAVE HEARD FROM SEVERAL PARTIES ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES, INCLUDING OF COURSE, AS YOU KNOW, AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN ON SATURDAY; BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE STATUS IS BEYOND THAT.

Q: DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ADDIS ABABA ON SATURDAY INDICATING THAT THEY WERE NOT WILLING TO ENTERTAIN THE IDEA OF FOREIGN OBSERVERS IN THEIR COUNTRY?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT.

Q: HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED FROM THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT ANY POSITION STATEMENT WHICH CONFORMS TO THE PUBLISHED DEMANDS BY THE ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY IN LONDON TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY WILL NOT AGREE TO A CEASE-FIRE UNTIL THERE IS A COMMITMENT FROM SOMALIA TO RENOUNCE FOR ALL TIMES ALL CLAIMS ON OTHER

AREAS?

A: LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION, I DON'T KNOW. I MEAN I DON'T THINK I KNOW. AND I DON'T WANT TO TRY TO GUESS ON THAT.

Q: WHAT ABOUT CONTACTS WITH THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT? HAS OUR EMBASSY IN ADDIS ABABA BEEN DISCUSSING THIS POSITION WITH THEM IN AN EFFORT TO SEE WHETHER THERE CAN BE SOME SORT OF TERMS THAT ARE ACCEPTABLE TO SOMALIA ALSO? ARE WE TRYING TO PLAY ANY SORT OF ROLE IN THAT?

A: AND ETHIOPIA, YOU'RE ASKING?

Q: YES, AND ETHIOPIA.

A: I KNOW THAT OUR CHARGE HAS TALKED, BUT I DON'T KNOW THE EXTENT OF IT AND I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GO INTO IT AS TO HOW MUCH AND ON HOW WIDE A LEVEL, BUT I KNOW THAT

WE HAVE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM THERE.

Q: HAS THE UNITED STATES HAD ANY INDICATION FROM THE SOMALIS OR OTHER SOURCES THAT THE WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT ALSO WANTS TO STOP THE FIGHTING?

A: I'M NOT AWARE OF SUCH ASSURANCES.

Q: WELL, HAVE YOU ANY FEELING, ANY INTELLIGENCE OR ANY KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT THE WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT INTENDS TO DO?

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A: I DO NOT THINK I HAVE ANY KIND OF ACCURATE INFORMATION TO OFFER YOU ON THAT.

Q: HOW CAN YOU EXPECT TO HAVE A CEASE-FIRE, OR HOW CAN YOU EVEN CALL FOR A CEASE-FIRE SO LONG AS THE WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT MIGHT BE CONTINUING THE FIGHTING?

A: WELL, YOU UNDERSTAND IT IS NOT HARD TO CALL FOR A CEASE-FIRE.

Q: BUT HOW CAN YOU EXPECT A CEASE-FIRE TO TAKE HOLD?

A: THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO WORK OUT.

Q: HOW ARE YOU TRYING TO WORK IT OUT WITH REGARD TO THE WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT? I MEAN, YOU SAID THAT SIAD SAYS HE'S NOT IN CONTROL OF THEM. WHO IS, AND HOW ARE YOU REACHING THEM?

A: TO MY KNOWLEDGE, WE DO NOT HAVE DIRECT CONTACT WITH THEM. I THINK, HOWEVER, THAT THE SITUATION GENERALLY MIGHT COMMEND A CEASE-FIRE TO ALL THE PARTIES. WE CERTAINLY HOPE SO.

Q: NOW, DO YOU WANT TO GET INTO MATTERS --

A: LET ME OFFER YOU A COUPLE OF THINGS: ON THE QUESTION OF BISHOP MUZOREWA'S INABILITY TO SPEAK BEFORE THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE RHODESIAN QUESTION, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO HAVE HEARD THE VIEWS OF BISHOP MUZOREWA, THE LEADER OF ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES IN RHODESIA. WE TOLD
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THE BISHOP WE WOULD SUPPORT A REQUEST FROM HIM TO APPEAR BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND WOULD HAVE SUPPORTED HIS APPLICATION IF HE HAD DONE SO. WHEN CONSIDERING AN ISSUE AS COMPLEX AS RHODESIA, THE COUNCIL SHOULD HEAR ALL

SIDES OF THE QUESTION.

Q: ON THAT ISSUE, IS THE SITUATION MOVING TOWARD ANY DEGREE OF CLARITY ON WHAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE BRITISH POSITION WILL BE ON WHAT RESOLUTION MAY BE OFFERED?

A: I BELIEVE THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN IS MEETING TODAY WITH THE TWO PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS, THAT WE WILL, OBVIOUSLY, BE CONSULTING WITH HIM ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THOSE CONVERSATIONS, AND WE ALSO ARE OBVIOUSLY STUDYING THE RESULTS OF THE SECRETARY'S TALKS HERE ON SATURDAY.

AND I WILL DEAL WITH THIS NOW GENERALLY, SINCE I WAS GOING TO COME TO IT NEXT: WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS IN WHICH ALL PARTIES CAN PARTICIPATE WOULD OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM WHICH DOES NOT FAVOR ONE GROUP OVER ANOTHER, BUT THE MEETING ITSELF, THE IDEA OF IT, IS STILL IN THE FORMULATIVE STAGE AND WE ARE TRYING TO GET GENERAL REACTIONS FROM A NUMBER OF THE PARTIES.

Q: ANDREW YOUNG -- I DIDN'T ACTUALLY SEE HIS TEXT OR HEAR IT -- BUT HE IS QUOTED IN THE PAPERS AS SAYING SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD VETO ANY CONDEMNATION OF THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT THAT WOULD COME UP IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. IS THIS, IN FACT, THE POSITION -- DO YOU KNOW IF HE WAS REPORTED CORRECTLY? AND IF HE WAS REPORTED CORRECTLY, DO YOU WANT TO RETRACT WHAT HE SAID?

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A: FIRST, I HAVE TO SEE WHAT THE QUOTE IS. SECOND, I JUST HAVE TO SAY, FOR ME TO SAY WHAT WE'RE GOING TO

DO IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD BE VERY PREMATURE ON A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS INVOLVING THE RHODESIAN SITUATION.

Q: HE SAID THAT WE WOULD VETO IT.

A: I DON'T HAVE THAT, UNFORTUNATELY; AND I DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON SOMETHING I HAVEN'T SEEN. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO DO IT.

Q: BASED ON WHAT YOU SAID ON THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH MUGABE AND NKOMO ON SATURDAY, I TAKE IT THEY DID NOT RULE OUT THE IDEA OF A MEETING INVOLVING SMITH AND THE DOMESTIC LEADERS?

A: LET ME SAY GENERALLY ON THAT SUBJECT, WHAT THEY

REALLY SAID WAS THAT THEY BELIEVED FOR THE MOMENT THE NEXT STAGE FOR THEIR TALKS OUGHT TO BE AS THEY ARE GOING FORWARD WITH MR. OWEN.

Q: THEY DENOUNCED MUZOREWA AS A PUPPET. THEY SAID THEY WERE WORKING TO KEEP THE WHITE REGIME AND THE WHITE SETTLERS IN POWER. THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT READ THAT AS RULING OUT AN EVENTUAL MEETING BETWEEN THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE NATIONALIST LEADERS, I TAKE IT?

A: WE ARE NOT RULING OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A MEETING' THE TIMING ON IT AND THE COMPOSITION OF IT, OBVIOUSLY, WE'RE STILL WORKING ON IT.

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Q: WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ONE, BUT THEY RULED IT OUT.

A: WELL, I KNOW WHAT THEY SAID.

Q: YOU DON'T THINK THEY HAVE RULED IT OUT YET?

A: I THINK THAT WHAT THEY ARE VERY CLEARLY INTERESTED IN RIGHT NOW IS A STAGE OF MEETING THAT THEY'RE HAVING IN LONDON.

Q: COULD WE HAVE A FILING BREAK?

A: YES, SURE. I DON'T HAVE TO OFFER YOU ANY MORE.
VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 064060
ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-03 /007 R

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DRAFTED BY:EUR:WE:EMROWELL
APPROVED BY:EUR:WE:EMROWELL
EUR:P:WGEHRON

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R 161100Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUFHOM/AMEMBASSY ROME 0000
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

UNCLAS STATE 064060

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 064060 SENT ACTION ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC
POSTS LONDON PARIS BONN PORT LOUIS BONN XMT FREETOWN LOME BANGUI
LAGOS OUAGADOUGOU ACCRA KINSHASA DAKAR KIGALI
CONAKRY MBABANE NIAMEY NDJAMENA NOUAKCHOTT ANTANANARIVO BUMUMBURO
MAR 13.

QUOTE E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

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Q: HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED FROM THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT ANY POSITION STATEMENT WHICH CONFORMS TO THE PUBLISHED DEMANDS BY THE ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY IN LONDON TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY WILL NOT AGREE TO A CEASE-FIRE UNTIL THERE IS A COMMITMENT FROM SOMALIA TO RENOUNCE FOR ALL TIMES ALL CLAIMS ON OTHER AREAS?

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A: TO MY KNOWLEDGE, WE DO NOT HAVE DIRECT CONTACT WITH THEM. I THINK, HOWEVER, THAT THE SITUATION GENERALLY MIGHT COMMEND A CEASE-FIRE TO ALL THE PARTIES. WE CERTAINLY HOPE SO.

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Q: ANDREW YOUNG -- I DIDN'T ACTUALLY SEE HIS TEXT OR HEAR IT -- BUT HE IS QUOTED IN THE PAPERS AS SAYING SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD VETO ANY CONDEMNATION OF THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT THAT WOULD COME UP IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. IS THIS, IN FACT, THE POSITION -- DO YOU KNOW IF HE WAS REPORTED CORRECTLY? AND IF HE WAS REPORTED CORRECTLY, DO YOU WANT TO RETRACT WHAT HE SAID?

A: FIRST, I HAVE TO SEE WHAT THE QUOTE IS. SECOND, I JUST HAVE TO SAY, FOR ME TO SAY WHAT WE'RE GOING TO

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Q: BASED ON WHAT YOU SAID ON THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH MUGABE AND NKOMO ON SATURDAY, I TAKE IT THEY DID NOT RULE OUT THE IDEA OFSA MEETING INVOLVING SMITH AND THE DOMESTIC LEADERS?

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Q: WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ONE, BUT THEY RULED IT OUT.

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Q: COULD WE HAVE A FILING BREAK?

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A: YES, SURE. I DON'T HAVE TO OFFER YOU ANY MORE.
VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
Film Number: D780112-0187
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803126/baaafcbq.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 056a5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
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Review Event:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3166187
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING MARCH 13, 1978
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, MOPS, ET, US, SO
To: ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS LONDON MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/056a5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014